

IN THE MIDDLE:

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Pokagon history comes alive

On April 13, Krueger Middle School had guests named Patty Jo Williams and Jefferson Ballow. They visited to teach Humanities students about the Pokagon people and their history.

The students asked questions about what the life of the Pokagon was like and how they survived in the past. Providing them with thorough answers, Williams and Ballow even brought artifacts to show to the students. They demonstrated a few of the items and also passed ob-

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jects among the students to allow them to feel them and get a close look at the items. Two of the items that they passed around were a black ash basket and antlers from a deer.

In addition, the students learned more about what materials were used to make their clothes, weapons, and other useful items. Williams and Ballow also taught the students about the Pokagon's past including where they lived, their traditional foods, their other traditions, what medicines they used and a little bit about the seven grandfather teachings. Not only did the students learn about that, but they also learned a little bit of their language.

It was interesting being part of Williams' and Ballow's audience. The things we learned were very intriguing. We weren't just taught about the surface of the Pokagon past, but we got in-depth knowledge from actual members of the tribe.

Both Williams and Ballow earned a big migwe'c (thank you) for teaching us more about the Pokagon. We will continue to learn more to pass on to the fourth-grade students coming to KMS in May to learn about early Pioneer and Native American life.

Erica Galindo is a seventh-grader at Krueger Middle School. In the Middle is a regular column produced by MCAS middle school students.